(d) if not, the time bound programme to examine and implement the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) A proposal has been received to convert the decommissioned ship INS Vikrant into a naval museum.

A decision in this regard would depend, inter alia, on feasibility of such conversion.

Air Services for West Bengal

1794. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in West Bengal linked with air services;

(b) whether as compared to other States, less places of West Bengal have been connected by air;

(c) whether there is any plan to expand air services in West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered to connect Kharagpur, Haldia, Durgapur, Asansol, Bolpur, Jalpaiguri and Maldah by air with Calcutta;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Calcutta and Bagdogra in West Bengal have regular air services.

(b) Provision of air transport services to a place depends on traffic potential.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) to (g) Indian Airlines, at present, has no plans to link any new place in West Bengal. Private Airlines are encouraged to airlink more stations subject to viability.

Central Centre of Excellence for Hockey

1795. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved the setting up of a Central Centre of Excellence for Hockey at SAI Regional Centre (Bangalore);

(b) if so, the details regarding its composition and terms and references;

(c) whether help of foreign experts have been sought in the area of penalty corner conversion; and

(d) if so, the details is thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details regarding the Excellence Centre are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) It will be sought as and when required.

Statement

The details of Centre of Excellence for Hockey

1. The Centre will cater to 50 outstanding Hockey players identified for training on continuous basis. The selection would be made from all important tournaments from the age group of 16—21 years.

2. Selection of players would be made by a Talent Scouting Committee comprising of the following three members :-

(a) One person to be nominated by President, I.H.F.

(b) Two former Olympians to be nominated by DG, SAI.

3. The Committee would select at least four players for each position. Approximately half of the players should be from the juniors at any one time. For goal keeping and penalty corner conversion a larger number of players would be identified.

4. In the next stage of Talent Scouting the identified players will be subjected to test in the Human Performance Laboratory. In the final stage the Selection Committee based on the physical fitness and scientific test results, will select Hockey players not exceeding 50.

5. Players will be provided academic facilities.

6. Any player who does not make to the National Team within a period of 3 years or by the age of 23 would be weeded out.

7. Services of sports scientists and foreign experts would be provided to the players.

8. IHF will be involved actively in the Management Committee of the Centre of Excellence which will be constituted by the DG, SAI. This Committee will meet atleast once a quarter. All administrative support to the Project would be provided by SAI Southern Centre, Bangalore.

9. To keep up the players confidence level and self-image, efforts would be made to develop their personality in the manner very similar to being done for the NDA Cadets in the Army.

10. Centre of Excellence will participate in National level Hockey Tournaments and their entry to the tournaments would be as Federation Teams.

11. The funds for the Scheme would come from grants to SAI.